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THE ROLE OF STANDARDS, CODES AND SPECIFICATIONS IN A MODERN NAVY

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Eduardo Alberto Pineda Villarroel

1962

UNITED STATES NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

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THE ROLE OF STANDARDS, CODES AND SPECIFICATIONS IN A MODERN NAVY

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Eduardo Alberto Pineda Villarroel

THE ROLE OF STANDARDS, CODES AND SPECIFICATIONS IN A MODERN NAVY

by

Eduardo Alberto Pineda Villarroel

Lieutenant, Chilean Navy

Submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

IN

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

United States Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, California

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ABSTRACT

Without Standards, wars would still be fought with spears. Battles and wars are won by those who get there first with the most, and it's equally true that industry cannot mass-produce the materials of war and get it to the battle first without the most complete Standardization of all component parts that make up modern war equipment.

An over-all Standardization Program for all the Armed Forces is therefore desirable to limit the variety of equipment and supplies in their supply systems; to aid in improving the logistic support; to coordinate certain specific efforts of all individuals in the three branches into the most economical and beneficial operation of the Armed Forces as a whole.

Because of its magnitude, complexity, responsibilities and far-flung activities, an organization such as the Chilean Navy, should find that a high incidence of Standardization, in all facets of their operations, is of utmost importance to their efficiency, effectiveness and success.

In this thesis a compilation of information about standardization is presented in an attempt to demonstrate the important role of standards in a modern navy and to provide a guide for securing the benefits that can be derived from them.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The indebtedness of the author to the numerous organizations and individuals who provided information and suggestions for the preparation of this thesis is too great to catalog; he can offer here only a most inadequate acknowledgment of his appreciation.

The author wishes to take this opportunity to express his deep appreciation to John E. Brock, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, who served as a source of inspiration and guidance in the development of this thesis.

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I

STATEMENT OF THE THESIS PURPOSES AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

The purposes of this thesis are to make a compilation of information about Standardization, which will enable me to spread the knowledge of Standardization among the Chilean Navy, to further the study of its principles and its techniques of application toward the establishment of A Standardization Program appropriate for the Chilean Navy; and, if it were possible, to extend all this to the rest of the Chilean Armed Forces toward the more preferred goal of the establishment of One Standardization Program for All the Armed Forces.

Standardization (in the form of Standards, Codes, Specifications, etc.) provides a reservoir of readily available information for immediate use in connection with the economical and expeditious solution to certain design problems; the evaluation of a product; the purchase or acquisition of a product; the method by which an evaluation is undertaken; or as the subject of a challenge to improve the product or the technique of evaluation. A proper application of Standardization in the Armed Forces of Chile can assist them in the fulfillment of their duties and to achieve the most efficient and economic Military Logistic.

Military Logistic is specifically those operations necessary to house, to feed, to clothe, to train, and to ensure the welfare of all military personnel. In addition it is those operations of

determining the equipment and supplies necessary to maintain an adequate defense. This includes purchasing, storage, distribution, transportation, inventory management, financial control, etc. Saying it another way, Military Logistic may be referred to as the 4 R's - ensuring that the right things are in the right place at the right time and in the right quantity. /1/[1]

The next several years are bound to produce substantial changes in Military Logistic. New technologies will require new concepts. At the same time, increasing pressure will occur for more improvements, primarily dictated by the economic squeeze between rising costs and the necessity for modernizing our weapons. The Standardization efforts will play an ever increasing role in maintaining the quality and performance of supplies and equipment which the Armed Forces need and, at the same time, in ensuring that they procure, stock, and issue only those minimum varieties and types of items necessary to support the needs of the Operating Forces.

Because of its magnitude, complexity, responsibility and far-flung activities, any organization such as the Armed Forces, find that a high incidence of Standardization, in all facets of their operations, is of utmost importance to their efficiency, effectiveness and success. A substantial library of Standards, ready and available for immediate use is of key importance to the prosecution of a smoother mobilization.

Standardization is one of the most significant achievements to make to secure uniformity. It is easy to appreciate that without

[1]References are given in the Bibliography, pages 71-78.

a single identification language, few, if any, plans and efforts for improved efficiency and economy could be successful. With the development of a common supply language, order will replace the current disorder in determination of requirements in relation to inventories and operating programs; procurement; storage and issue; disposal, and other facets of supply function. Development of standard nomenclature and classification is also important for our national defense.

Standardization by itself cannot improve the economic status of anyone, but it is an acknowledged and significant factor in improving industrial productivity. This, in turn, enhances the purchasing power of an hour of labor, which is the essence of improved living standards. It follows logically, therefore, that to further Standardization in the Armed Forces and in the country as a whole offers a significant offset to the pressures of inflation being placed upon the national economy from all sides.

Standardization began to affect industrial productivity a long time ago, beginning with Eli Whitney, who first suggested the interchangeability of muskets. He manufactured a dozen on an interchangeability basis and took them down to the United States Congress. He scattered the parts on the floor and said, "I could put twelve good rifles together from these." And he did just that. /3/

Without Standards, wars would still be fought with spears. Battles and wars are won by those who get there first with the most, and it is equally true that industry cannot mass-produce the materials of war and get it to the battle first without the most complete

Standardization of all component parts that make up modern war equipment.

A huge amount of items are stocked in the military supply systems to meet the logistic requirements. This indicates the possibility of an excess variety.

An over-all Standardization Program for all the Armed Forces is therefore desirable to limit the variety of equipment and supplies in their supply systems; to aid in improving the logistic support, to coordinate certain specific efforts of all individuals in the three branches into the most economical and beneficial operation of the Armed Forces as a whole. There is scarcely a phase of defense supply and property management which will not be aided and will not benefit from one Standardization Program for All the Armed Forces.

It might be well to emphasize here that all the benefits of standardization are not free. To realize the expected savings, money and man-power should be invested in standardization. The experience in the United States indicates that the best way to profit more from standardization is by means of a permanent, well organized program. /8/

Brigadier General Donald Armstrong, USA (Ret.), President of the U. S. Pipe and Foundry Company, proposed a formula for assessing a nation's military potential:

> Manpower, plus economic resources, plus tools, plus skills, plus organization, plus morale, is equal to the national potential, and national potential plus time is equal to actual power. Standardization enters into the formula as one of the management's skills. When we examine the countries behind the Iron Curtain, we see that day by day we are becoming inferior in manpower. War today is a

> conflict of industrial systems. As years go on and manpower, economic resources, and the tools of production increase against us, what hope is there for our country unless the three other factors in the equation - our skills, our organization, and our morale - are maintained at the highest possible level? In view of our present numerical inferiority and our future inferiority in economic resources and in tools, standardization offers one of the most important skills with which to meet that inferiority with hope for the future /7/

This statement of General Armstrong's, intended for the United States of America, applies completely to Chile if we give to the words "behind the Iron Curtain" a more local meaning.

I firmly believe that Chile cannot afford ever to fight a war where the nation does not make the best possible use of everything it has.

An example worth mentioning here is the mobilization of the United States economy as a result of the Korean War. Restrictions on the use of materials, the employment of substitutes, and limitations on a variety of products were beginning to be felt. Standards were again being emphasized as a means of stimulating production with the least possible disturbance of established and orderly practices. It is now a matter of record that the United States successfully re-armed itself in 1950-53 without dislocating the national economy. /6/

If in the future the Chilean nation understands the problem of standardization and visualizes what it can do for the people, not only by saving their money but against that day when war comes, it could be the salvation of the country in permitting Chile to fight a war without so dissipating everything it owns that it will have lost the peace that follows.

II

METHODOLOGY

A. How did the author get acquainted with the problem?

When the author's enrollment in the Advanced Mechanical Engineering Curricula was finally approved by the Chilean Navy, he was confronted with the important decision of selecting a subject for his Master's thesis. He wanted to work on something that not only would fulfill the partial requirement for the degree but that would also be of direct benefit to his Navy.

With this in mind, he went to talk to Professor John E. Brock, told him what were the writer's ambitions about the thesis and asked for his suggestions. Professor Brock agreed that it would be valuable to write the thesis on a subject that will be of interest and useful to the Chilean Navy.

Then he introduced the author to the broad subject of Standardization and explained the potential benefits that could be derived from an appropriate application of this philosophy in the Chilean Navy. The benefits were so obvious and the savings expected so great that the subject became both interesting and appealing.

Shortly thereafter the author decided to write the thesis on the subject of "The Role of Standards, Codes and Specifications in A Modern Navy."

B. What were the general sources of information?

During the second intersessional period the author was able to make a tour which permitted him to call upon the following

organizations which are concerned with Standards in the United States of America:

U. S. Navy Bureau of Ships

U. S. Coast Guard

American Standards Association

American Society for Testing and Materials

American Bureau of Shipping

Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers

American Welding Society

American Society of Mechanical Engineers

This tour served the purposes of making personal contacts with important people in the standardization field and to obtain general information about the organizations visited. The writer is very grateful for the kind cooperation received from all these organizations and for the valuable information and publications they provided in that opportunity.

The United States Department of Commerce Miscellaneous Publication 230 "Standardization Activities in the United States,"/46/ by Sherman F. Booth, August, 1960, which provides a descriptive inventory of the work of about 350 American organizations involved in Standardization activities; together with the Chapter 5 of the Bureau of Ships Standardization Manual "Using Technical Societies for Standardization,"[1] 10 May 1961, which gives a list of "Typical Professional Societies and Associations" where the Bureau participates in Standardization work; made possible the selection of those activities which are of importance for the Chilean Navy in connection with naval construction, operation, and maintenance.

[1]See Appendix II, pg. 102.

The publications of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) "ISO Memento 1961" and "General Information on the ISO Member Bodies," which contain general information about the Standards Bodies of more than 40 countries which are members of ISO, enabled the writer to select some foreign activities which are of interest because the Chilean Navy has some units which are of Dutch, French, English, Canadian, and United States manufacture.

Reading in the October 1961 issue of "Materials Research & Standards" the American Society for Testing and Materials Bulletin, the writer learned about the Pan American Standards Committee (Comitè Panamericano de Normas Tècnicas, CPANT) to which belong as Member Bodies the Standards Body of nine countries in the Americas, and decided that for its importance it should also be included in the study along with ISO as international standardization activities.

In the Encyclopaedia Britanica the author found still another important group, the Ships Classification Societies which are international in scope and closely related to the subject of the thesis. Then he decided to include some of the more important of these societies keeping in mind the origin of the naval units of Chile.

After the writer had made this estimated selection of activities to be included in the survey, additional information from the organizations visited on the tour and general information from all the others was requested. In this respect the author wants to express his thanks for the understanding and cooperation received from most of the organizations contacted. As a means of collecting

information the writer sent an inquiry to some 30 of these organizations asking for information about their standards work and was very pleased with the outcome of this inquiry, because he obtained 29 answers which gives 96.7% response that anyone will consider to be outstanding.

C. What are some of the communication problems involved?

At the time of the visit to the headquarters of the organizations included in the tour, the author had barely begun to acquaint himself with the problems and procedures of Standardization and he was unable to formulate specific questions--answers to which would have been of real value in the thesis work.

It was during the visit to the ASTM Headquarters that the author first knew about the existence of The National Institute of Technological Research and Standardization (INDITECNOR), the Chilean Standards Body. Before the author came to this country to study Mechanical Engineering he had little knowledge about the engineering profession or its activities outside the Navy.

Even his knowledge of policy and procedures for standardization in the Navy was vague and rather limited.

As a consequence of the author's lack of previous knowledge of the status of standardization in the Chilean Navy and in Chile as a whole, he was restricted for the determination of it to whatever information he could obtain by writing to the top-level authorities of the Navy and to the Director of INDITECNOR.

The simple fact of being out of Chile for almost three years and so far from it made the author's ambition of making his

work of direct benefit to the Chilean Navy very difficult in many ways. He was not aware of the many changes, innovations, new programs, and present trends that were taking place in it, factors desirable to give the proper orientation to the work.

One problem in obtaining information useful for planning the establishment of a Standardization Program appropriate for the Chilean Navy is that standardization is still an art rather than a science.

Another factor which complicates the study and the collecting of the necessary information is that there are so many different standards organizations in the United States, that there seems to be little standardization in standardization, and instead of getting a clear-cut picture, a rather confusing and sometimes conflicting picture of standardization in this country appears. However, a mass of information which may someday fall into place and prove useful to Chile is included in this study.

D. Evaluation of the information obtained.

The information obtained is not complete: It is what was available for collection in the time available, as a result of requests which were based on the author's limited knowledge of the subject; and on the cooperation of persons or organizations to which requests were directed.

Most of the information about the standardization activities is a little toward the ideal or desirable state of the matter.

It is difficult to obtain in writing more realistic information. When someone writes about the work of his organization to an outsider, he will be more inclined to state the way he wishes the

things to be, instead of the facts.

The author has not been able, do to lack of experience and of more complete knowledge, to fully judge the accuracy of all the information received, but he is sure it was given in good faith.

The scarce data on manpower and dollar budgets for standardization activities are rough approximations, but it is the author's opinion that it is all that can be expected. The writer is aware that this quantitative information is very difficult to develop and that not only may there be a lack of objective information but also that there may be widely varying evaluations of whatever data may be in existence. Also, the facts are probably greatly clouded in commercial circles because of the fact that there is no overall uniform administration of these activities and also because of the fact that the costs of this work are picked up by parent organizations in a variety of ways without adequate cost accounting or without the cost data ever being collected in one place.

There is also some amount of information that could be considered to be of a promotional kind, but it is, in almost every case, concerned with the publications of these organizations.

E. Areas in which information is lacking or unreliable.

Standardization can be applied to almost everything in which it will eliminate any form of waste. In the United States there is a standards organization for almost every field of activity, making a total of several hundred. To this must be added the foreign and international activities. Even after selecting those of importance to the Chilean Navy in connection with naval construction, operation and maintenance, the number was still too large to be

handled in the available time. Only the most important ones or those related to Mechanical Engineering will be considered in this paper.

As a consequence of this, information is lacking in the following fields: Electrical; Electronics; Ordnance; Chemical; and Housekeeping, Subsistence, and Medical Supplies.

The information obtained about the standardization activities in the Republic of Chile and in the Chilean Navy is not enough to do a good job in establishing the present status of them. A considerable part of the initial efforts toward the improvement of the Military Logistic System will have to be dedicated to the complete and accurate establishment of this information.

One of the most important classes of information is the requirements and factors to be considered for setting up and administering a Standardization Program appropriate to the Chilean Navy, but it seems that information of this kind is very hard to come by. More specific data on the administrative organization, the attendant cost and breadth of activity for such a program is strongly needed, keeping in mind that this information is not easily developed nor readily available.

III

STANDARDIZATION IN GENERAL

A. Definitions

Today there are thousands of documents which have been published with the designation "specification" or "standard". One could expect, very logically, that there should be a "standard" definition of these terms. But again the picture is not as clear as one will want it to be. Also, it is realized that there is no generally accepted definition of the term "standardization" itself./9,10,11, 12, 19/ All this constitutes another indication that there seems to be little standardization in standardization. Probably each organization, that participates in the standardization work, has its own definitions and, maybe these are not the same for all their members. In conclusion there still appears to be great confusion and discussion over these basic definitions./13,14,15/

This writer wishes, however, to provide a set of definitions that he regarded as best suited for his purposes. The following definitions contain excerpts from a recent article written by J. Chingas and R. Glie./13/

Standardization - is the organized and continuous process of establishing and implementing the policies concerning routine operations, specifically in the area of recurring problems; selecting the most appropriate solutions to these problems and disseminating them by means of revisable standards and specifications; and maintaining these standards consistent with the state of the art and with efficient utilization of time, manpower, equipment and materials.

Specification - is a concise statement of the requirements for a material, item, process, method, procedure, or service, including, whenever possible, the exact procedure by which it can be determined that the conditions are met within the tolerances specified in the statement.

A Standard - is a specification accepted by recognized authority as the most practical and appropriate current solution to a recurring problem.

Cataloging - is the process of establishing a single name, description and identification number for each item of supply used, purchased, stored, and issued./67/ Cataloging is one of the major segments in a standardization program and is important to manage a supply system.

Simplification.- is the process of reducing the number of types and sizes of items to a minimum consistent with the needs of an operation./9/

Simplification is an essential part of standardization, and is sometimes used synonymously.

Value Engineering (or Value Analysis) - is an objective appraisal of each element of design, manufacture, procurement, installation, and maintenance to achieve only necessary function and reliability at minimum cost./17/

Value Engineering is also an essential part of a material standardization program.

B. Types of Standards and Specifications.

Standards can be of the following general types:

1. Safety standards, usually called "Codes", consist of compilations of design rules, material and product minimum requirements, inspecting, testing, and operating procedures for the protection of life and property. In many cases enforcement depends only upon a contractural agreement, in many others it depends upon an inability to obtain insurance protection without compliance with the code, and in an increasing proportion of cases it depends upon legislation which permits issuance of a license to operate only products or installations which comply./16/

2. Performance standards provide a ready-made basis for agreement between contracting parties for their mutual protection and satisfaction. An example is the AISC "Code of Standard Practice for Steel Structures other than Bridges."/16/

3. Dimensional standards supply an obvious need. They are of two general types: /16/

   a. dimensions applying to a component widely used in many products, such as "Unified and American Screw Threads for Screws, Bolts, Nuts, and other Threaded Parts (ASA B1.1) and

   b. overall dimensions of complete products, such as "Steel Butt Welding Fittings (ASA B16.9).

4. Testing standards provide a basis for assessing compliance with contract or specification requirements, such as the ASME "Power Test Codes". /16/

Specifications may be in the form of Materials or Products specifications and they can be considered together, since all materials are products, and vice versa. The term "material specification" is more appropriate, however, to the complete chemical compositions and limits for a $1\frac{1}{4}\%$ chromium - $\frac{1}{2}\%$ molybdenum steel, while the term "product specification" is more appropriate for "Frogs, Switches, and Turnouts for Coal Mine Tracks. (ASA M7.1,2)."

Materials specifications may be of the "formulation" type which requires that a certain basic raw material be mixed or combined in prescribed proportions and under defined conditions with or without a subsequent treatment by heating, pressure, or agitation to bring about the desired composition./18/

Products specifications can be of two types:

1. Design specifications may be used to specify the construction of a structure, a system, a machine or an apparatus. Sufficient detail is provided by the specifications and accompanying blueprints to enable a manufacturer, who is familiar with the terms used, to erect or fabricate the required construction./18/
2. Performance specifications prescribe the functions which must be performed by a system, a machine, an apparatus, or a product and also the capabilities for which each function is measured./18/

C. Basic Facts.

Standards are not made by art of magic. They have to be developed. This takes a lot of manpower and money as material ingredients plus knowledge, patience, dedication and diplomacy as spiritual contributions from the individuals participating in their development.

The maximum use of standards and encouragement of standardization does not involve any danger of fostering stagnation, slowing progress or stilling innovation. It is realized today that standards are dynamic. They represent the general consensus on what is best for the need at the time of their adoption. However, as soon as more knowledge and experience are gained, those responsible for standards must bring them up-to-date.

The only justification for the planned use of standardization in any organization is the savings to be derived from it. This savings must be evaluated from time to time in order to reactivate or modify the program. In the words of one writer,

> Standardization is not a goal--it is a means, an instrument, a tool. It is good when its effect is beneficial; it is bad when its effect is harmful. /9/

Standards are not the only answer to all the problems of industrialization. But they do benefit individual companies, industries, and national economy by contributing by compensating for the increasing costs of production resulting from higher costs of labor.

> Standards are not substitutes for good engineering. The unintelligent use of standards can be dangerous. All concerned have a serious responsibility to know what they contain and to use them intelligently. /45/

D. Benefits and Savings.[1]

Specifications and Standards provide, or make possible:

1. Sampling, inspection, and test procedures for use in determining that requirements have been met; in addition to clear and accurate descriptions of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service, including design and construction, and component parts.
2. Saving time and effort in determining needs because standards specifications are the result of much experience, trial, and study.
3. References to related specifications and standards, such as marking and packing requirements, which by such reference become an integral part of the requirement which must be met.
4. The purchase of supply items which will result in maximum value being received for the funds expended.
5. Participation by large and small suppliers on an equal basis broadening sources of supply and assuring greater supplier participation.
6. The simplest manner by which the lowest bidder is selected. It is nearly impossible to determine who is the lowest bidder when the item being bought is not supported by a complete specification.
7. Utilization of regularly produced supply items to the maximum extent practicable.

[1] Abstracted from reference 38

8. Simplification of procurement procedures, better delivery service, and reduced procurement costs.

9. Utilization of nationally known and recognized technical industry standards.

10. A means of assuring that the product being purchased has the characteristics and quality determined essential to requirements and will satisfy the intended use--price and other factors considered.

11. The elimination of unnecessary types, varieties, and sizes of supply items, thereby reducing capital investments in inventories and storage space requirements.

12. Low cost of maintenance and repairs because fewer parts and supplies have to be carried in stock.

13. Engineers released from routine and recurring problems are free for more creative work on special problems, which is very important in these days of technical manpower shortages.

It should be realized that according to the thesis purpose, some of these benefits and savings are more applicable to governmental and military standardization.

Some other great benefits of standardization are largely intangible. It cannot be measured in dollars the countless argument, needless conferences, time-consuming searches in catalogs eliminated through standardization. Standards Manuals are effective as a training device for new personnel to obtain optimum performance in a minimum time.

The benefits for the consumer public are greater availability of goods, more convenience in use, prompter repair or exchange service, better quality, and, most of all, lower prices.

E. Private and voluntary standardization compared with state-directed and mandatory standardization.

One way of making this comparison is by contrasting procedures in the U. S. A. with those in the U. S. S. R.

In the U. S. A.[2] the major part of the standardization work is private and voluntary.

Every company develops standards to satisfy their individual needs. Some industries produce standards of industry-wide scope and for industry widespread use. Also, some of the professional and technical associations include as one of their most important activities the issuance of standards in their field of interest. The Federal Government Agencies and the Armed Forces develop their own standards, which are of mandatory use for them. These government standards are sometimes coordinated with the non-governmental ones.

When the need for fully coordinated standards is established, the procedures of the American Standards Association, the national clearinghouse and co-ordinating agency for voluntary standards, are used to approve standards as American Standards, provided they are accepted by a consensus of all national groups substantially concerned with their scope and provisions.

[2]Abstracted from reference 42

The American Standards Association (ASA) is a neutral, non-profit institution of governmental, industrial, engineering, consumer, and public agency membership operating in the public interest; financed by industrial, professional and public organizations. ASA maintains a reputation of being free of any partisan interest, be it of a technical, commercial, or political nature.

All American Standards are voluntary, arrived at by a common consent, and are available for voluntary use. However, American Standards are sometimes adopted by a governmental agency or other organizations for mandatory applications, especially when public safety and health are involved.

The ASA has provisions for granting the use of a certification mark indicating conformity with American Standards under the U. S. Trademark Laws. This mark cannot be registered until it has been put into use, but so far no requests for its application have been received.

The opposite is found in the U. S. S. R.[3] where the work in standardization matters is considered a government affair.

The central standardization body in U. S. S. R. is the Committee on Standards, Measurements, and Measuring Instruments of the Council of Ministers of the U. S. S. R., which is completely financed by the State.

The Committee has representatives attached to the Council of Ministers of all the federated Republics.

[3]Abstracted from reference 42

The Committee examines and approves the State Standards. But for certain classes of products of special importance the draft State Standards, after being studied by the Committee, are submitted to the Council of Ministers of the U. S. S. R. for ratification.

The decisions of the Committee are made operative by decrees of the Committee President.

The work done in the U. S. S. R. in the field of standardization is inextricably tied in with the essential objectives of the national economy as a whole.

State Standards are the only form of standards which exist in the U. S. S. R. They are considered, once adopted, as obligatory throughout all the territory of the U. S. S. R., and applicable by all organizations and enterprises. The non-application of State Standards entails direct material responsibility. Systematic non-application is punishable by law.

In the U. S. S. R., the supply of technical or industrial products and of goods destined for national consumption is subjected to obligatory marking indicating conformity with State Standards specifications, technical specifications or agreements. The supplier is obliged to guarantee the good quality of the products furnished during the time-limit set forth in the standard. Any supplier delivering non-marked merchandise, in violation of State Standards Specifications, is liable to fine.

After the presentation of these drastically opposed systems, the question of which one is better could be raised. This writer feels that this is a crucial subject, but an examination of this question is a diversion from the actual purpose of the thesis; therefore, an answer will be omited.

IV

STANDARDIZATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

A. Historic background.

The need and usefulness of creating an effective national standardization is as old as the world itself.

> Hammurabi, King of Babylonia, laid down some pretty stiff specifications when he drafted the first building code in history. And Hammurabi minced no words about it. Here's what he said: 'The builder of a substandard house that falls and kills the householder shall be slain.' That was 4,000 years ago. /20/

The construction of Pekin's sewers, with building materials of uniform dimensions is another old example of the application of standardization. In the military field standards are as old as history. The might of the Romans rested largely on the standard formation of their legions and on the standard Roman sword and shield.

The manufacture of guns, ammunition, and their repair parts essential for an army in the battle field, has shown, in many wars, the importance of the interchangeability of military equipment.

In modern mechanized warfare, standardization has become one of the most formidable tasks of the Armed Forces.

B. Importance.

One approach to place the proper value on the benefits of a strong national standardization movement is to consider its relation to significant family, business, community, national, and international affairs.

With the family and its standard of living rising so rapidly, in which "mass production for mass consumption" concept makes this possible, obviously standardization is fundamental.

The manufacturers successfully turn out their products in large numbers at low cost through standardization of the materials selected, tools used, tests applied, and even some construction features affecting installation and operation.

Success in business is irrefutably connected to effective standardization. Apart from the obvious benefits of a "mass production for a mass consumption" philosophy, there are many advantages to be gained from such standardization efforts as drafting standards, which saves millions of dollars otherwise wasted in drafting errors or in training of personnel; or safety standards which have reduced very impressively, the rates of industrial accidents.

Communities and regulatory agencies appreciate the benefits from the standardization of requirements for motor vehicles inspection, traffic signals, and fire hose couplings, which, as the result of fitting the fire engines from all nearby communities, permit mutual assistance in cases of severe emergency.

International affairs are also affected by standardization. A more effective international standardization movement will increase the opportunities for foreign trade, making possible that equipment manufactured in one country could be used in another. In fact, differences in national standards can be a stronger trade barrier than import quotas, currency restrictions or high customs tariffs.

There is an old Spanish adage which says "...People really know the value of what they have when they have lost it..."

Imagine if there were no standards in the world! /36/

How would everybody live and work?

Imagine each railroad had their own track gauge instead of a standard gauge!

Imagine no standards were used in the manufacture of automobiles!

Imagine there were no standard grades of gasoline!

Imagine the traffic lights were different in each city and in each state!

Imagine there were no standards specifications! How would purchases be made?

Mr. E. J. Boersig /36/ defined it nicely in a recent talk when he said

> Standardization shouldn't be regarded as something unpleasant, complicated - or as an arbitrary rule that somebody made just to hamstring us. On the contrary, standards were born of necessity to eliminate confusion.

C. Present Status

Many people in the design professions and in business agree that it makes sense to develop better national standards for dimensions and definitions, for testing and performance, and for safety. Almost everybody agrees that those standards are important; that they save money; that they protect life and property; and that many more of them are needed.